

The Secret Place

Ps 91:1-2

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

1. Introduction
1. When was the last time you were outside in the night and spent any time looking up at the stars, planets, or moon? Because we know a little about astronomy, we understand they are always above the earth, but there are things that hinder us from seeing them.
2. First of all, during the day, the light of the sun is so bright it outshines the light of the much more distant stars.
3. The astronauts living on the International Space Station can tell you that every 93

minutes, while orbiting the earth, they watch the sun go down, and in the darkness, they can clearly see the starry sky.
[image]

4. But roughly 45 minutes later, they begin to see evidence of the sunrise, and soon the brilliance of the sun hides the star light.

[sunrise, then full sunrise]

5. And then sometimes at night when we should be able to see the stars, there are heavy clouds that block our view of them.
6. And sometimes our nights are illuminated by bright street lights, house lights, or car lights, that the glow of the heavenly lights is greatly drowned out by the earthly lights.
7. What I think of as odd, is when that vast spread of creation and untold splendor of billions of galaxies and their trillions of stars is twinkling above my head, I can completely miss all that heavenly glory by focusing my eyes on far lesser lights, like the glow of a phone screen.

8. I believe God is calling us to His secret place of glory, but I'm afraid we just might miss it if we don't get some vision correction.
9. Let's talk about The Secret Place.
- II. Vision correction needed
 - A. Overwhelmed and looking up
 1. So my inability to see this heavenly beauty is not a problem of them not having stunning glory, it is a problem with how focused I am on lesser lights that are closer to me.
 2. Yet we often choose to focus on all the lesser things that overwhelm us when the Greater Thing is not really so far away that He is impossible to see.

Ps 142:3-5

3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but

*there was no man that would know me:
refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.*

3. When David looking down, he anxiety was up, because was sure there was a hidden trap in his path.
 4. When David looked at what was around him, he didn't find any help or refuge.
 5. In fact he was convinced no one even cared for him.
 6. But then he looked to the Lord:
5 I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
 7. How close is God's glory to you? How available is His salvation? Can he be a refuge of help even in your condition?
Ps 62:7 In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.
- B. **Dwelling and abiding is the secret of the secret place**

1. I am convinced that God wants to make a dwelling place for us at such times as when we are needing help.
2. But as it is with the radiant glory of the heavens, that dwelling place might be a secret hidden from us due to the lesser distractions around us.

Ps 91:1-2

*1 He that **dwelleth** in the secret place of the most High shall **abide** under the shadow of the Almighty.*

2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3. Dwelling with the Lord means we are spending some time with Him there. Coming to God is not like bumping into a total stranger. Where you dwell is your home, so you are at home with God in this secret place.
4. And when you get into a private conversation with God, you will crave to abide there.

5. You can find rest in that secret place with God because He has covered you with His shadow. His presence is so near, His shadow is hovering over you.
6. This secret place with God is 2-second glance upward, but a dwelling, sitting down with, communicating with, abiding with God.
7. And when you spend that kind of time with God, His glory outshines the anguish and overwhelming feelings you got from (1) looking down at the snare on the path and (2) around at uncaring people and (3) focusing on your problem.
8. Looking down always puts us in rubbing shoulders with the filth and mess of the world, but God has so much more for us that the messes of this earth.

Ps 48:1 A Song and Psalm for the sons of Ko'-rah. 1 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

9. The mountain of His holiness is where He has called us to focus our view.
 10. I am dwelling and abiding in His secret place on the mountain where God is fixing my perspective on things above.
 11. That is why David sought the Lord in the morning and chose to look up:
Ps 5:3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.
 12. It is a theme repeated over and over. Looking down bring down emotions. In other words, our anxiety goes up when our focus is down.
 13. So I will direct my prayer to God and with that prayer I will look up to His mountain of holiness.
- III. Transformed at the transfiguration
- A. Peter, James, and John on the mount
 1. Had you ever thought why Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him to the top of the

mountain where in a holy encounter, Jesus was transfigured there?

2. Do you remember what the disciples were doing during what began as a prayer meeting? They were sleeping:

Luke 9:28-32

28 And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

29 And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

3. The glory of God filled that mountain top and the glory of God shone through Jesus, they heard heavenly voices, and saw glorious heavenly beings.
4. I just wonder how many encounters in the secret place of the most High, where God intended to become our refuge and fortress, ended up with us snoozing and missing out on it.
5. I wonder how encounters of praising the Lord who is greatly to be praised on the mountain of holiness, we skipped out on because we were not praising.
6. I wonder how many times we missed the glory of God because we were not looking up?
7. Our souls require getting up early and praying, or staying awake during the night and praying and praising God.
8. By the way, did you know that this encounter on Mount Transfiguration was likely an all-night prayer meeting? This is

how that passage ends:

Luke 9:37 And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.

9. Yes, Peter, James, and John, our bodies do need rest, but if you get into the habit of sleeping through prayer meetings with Jesus, who know what other life-changing glorious encounters you might miss.
- B. Moses on the mount
 1. Do you remember the first time God met Moses and spoke with him? From a burning bush on a mountain.
 2. Do you remember where Moses was when God gave him the commandments? On the top of a mountain. That occurred in Exodus 20.
 3. If you read Exodus 19, you will read of at least three trips Moses made up this mountain before receiving the commandments.

Ex 19:3 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

4. You see, Moses had developed a habit of going up the mountain, again and again and again.
5. Maybe that is why God spoke with Moses so much:

Ex 33:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

6. And as you see, it set a good example for Joshua.
- c. Looking more like God
1. Do you remember last Sunday we preached about being made in the image of God, how

that God wants to transform us into the image He created for us?

2. Well apparently, when you spend enough encounters with God, it has an impact on us that others will notice.
3. Moses had made so many trips up to speak with God and engaged in His glory, that Moses started to look like God:

Ex 34:29-30

29 And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

4. Moses had to put a veil over his face so the people could even stand to look at him.

5. That is exactly what God did when He came as a man. He put a veil of human flesh on His glory and came to hide that glory in a manger. But some of it still brilliantly shined from a star above.
6. Have you been asking God to make you in His image? Well, He desires more encounters with you, more conversations, more early morning prayer times on the mountain of His holiness. More nighttime prayer meetings with Jesus that last until morning.
7. More prayer meetings that focus on, “they will be done in earth as it is in heaven.”
8. We need more heaven on earth in our church services and in our homes.

IV. Conclusion

1. Take my yoke upon you: that is not picking up a burden, it is joining in a partnership with one strong enough to shoulder it all, so that in reality, we are going along for the

ride as a companion on the journey of labor.

Matt 11:29-30

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light

2. Get yoked up with Jesus. Have some heavenly encounters with Him. Have some conversations with Him that start early in the morning, or happen in the middle of the night as He wakes you with His glory.
3. He is calling us to His secret place of **transfiguration** and **transformation**, until we become **translucent** with His glory, and then He **translates** us from this world and **transfers** us into His glory where we shall walk on pure gold as **transparent** as glass where we will ever be with the Lord!

4. But there is another “trans” word that we must stay away from, that our world is currently very distracted by—it is called, transgression.
5. And when we commit transgressions against God, that prevents the transformation that God called us to, and it increases the distance between God and the one sinning against God.
6. Do not get distracted by lesser things that we allow to outshine the glory of God, who makes all the difference in the world for us.
7. But I want more of His glory, and more, more of transforming into His image—more time in the secret place with God.